

Letter to Director  
NY 47-6030

105549

J. GARRETT UNDERHILL has been described by associates as a "nut" (interview of JOHN LEAR contained in Cleveland's letter to Bureau, 7/27/50) and as eccentric (by WORTHEN PAYTON, report of SA [ ] dated 8/11/50). LOUIS RUPPEL, editor of Colliers Magazine has described UNDERHILL as eccentric and he reports that UNDERHILL has suffered a nervous breakdown.

b6  
b7C

The Bureau was advised by New York letter dated May 9, 1950 that UNDERHILL had on May 6, 1950 telephoned this office and expressed his annoyance at being subpoenaed by the defense in the AXELBANK trial stating that he was "highly exercised" over the whole matter. [ ]

b1 per  
b3 CIA

[ ] UNDERHILL reportedly called AXELBANK and pleaded with him to drop him as a defense witness. His reason for not wanting to appear as a witness for the defense was given as his fear of disclosing confidential government information and his belief that AXELBANK was in a position to furnish information of value to this country. Therefore, UNDERHILL said he felt the case should have been dropped. The portion of the letter reputedly from UNDERHILL contained with AXELBANK'S letter of September 20, 1950 may indicate that UNDERHILL had been completely duped by AXELBANK and that subsequent to the trial he still felt that AXELBANK could furnish photographs of value.

In view of the fact that the allegations of AXELBANK are apparently without foundation and due to the high regard in which UNDERHILL is held by such individuals as WORTHEN PAYTON, WILSON HICKS and EDWARD E. THOMPSON, in spite of his eccentricities, it is believed that the best interest of the Bureau would not be served by continuing this inquiry. It is therefore recommended that J. GARRETT UNDERHILL not be interviewed as suggested in the above referenced letter.

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unreasonably high price. He reported that he subsequently met UNDERHILL and told UNDERHILL that he would give him a liberal commission if he could effect a sale of a group of pictures with another magazine. Together, he and UNDERHILL made an unsuccessful trip to the offices of the "Saturday Evening Post", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in an effort to interest that magazine in a set of pictures. Finally, in December, 1949, UNDERHILL advised him that Collier's Magazine was considering a group of pictures, but that it would be necessary for him, UNDERHILL, to travel to Washington, D. C., to have the pictures "verified" by the proper Government Intelligence officials. AXELBANK revealed that he is unable to recall if UNDERHILL told him specifically that he was going to Washington, D. C., to contact Navy Intelligence officials, or whether he, AXELBANK, assumed that UNDERHILL meant Navy when he said he was going to Washington, D. C., in connection with the pictures.

AXELBANK disclosed to the interviewing agents that the Arlington telephone number left by UNDERHILL on Harvard Club stationery, which number AXELBANK claims in his letter to Judge BAILEY he was instructed to telephone UNDERHILL at on December 2, 1949, was never represented by UNDERHILL as the telephone number of a Navy or other government official, but that he, AXELBANK, only assumed that it was the telephone number of Rear Admiral R. H. HILLENKOETER, Head of CIA, although unable to give reasons to support this assumption.

AXELBANK stated that UNDERHILL returned from his Washington, D. C. trip on December 4, 1949, and on the same date he met UNDERHILL at the office of JOHN DENSON, Managing Editor of Collier's Magazine. AXELBANK stated that at this meeting with DENSON, UNDERHILL told DENSON that the magazine was getting the opportunity of using the pictures before the U. S. Government reviewed them, but AXELBANK was unable to explain this reported statement further or comment on what purpose the trip to Washington, D. C. served if UNDERHILL did not contact military officials in the capitol. Following the talk in DENSON'S office, AXELBANK stated that he, UNDERHILL and DENSON went into the office of LOU RUPPEL, Editor of the magazine. AXELBANK advised that UNDERHILL preceded him by a few minutes, and stated that when he, AXELBANK, entered the Editor's office, he overheard UNDERHILL remark in a whisper to LOU RUPPEL "intelligence ", at the same time pointing in his general direction.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 1 1950

TELETYPE

WASH AND WASH FLD 28 FROM NEW YORK

1 8-08PM P

DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

J. GARRETT UNDERHILL, WA., IMP., PERJURY. RE WASHINGTON FIELD TELETYPE  
JULY THREE ONE LAST. [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] UNKNOWN TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] WILLIARD CROSBY,  
COLLIERS MAGAZINE, AND E. K. THOMPSON, LIFE MAGAZINE. INVESTIGATION  
CONTINUING IN FURTHER EFFORT TO IDENTIFY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

SCHLEIDT

47-39727-5X

RECORDED

AUG 3 1950

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NO COPIES

EX-16

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

b1 per  
b3 CIA  
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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE - CONTINUED

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